



**Biblical Stewardship**



# **Bible Study Series**

## **Using Generously What God Gives Me - Youth Biblical Background -**

### **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15**

**Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV**

You may have heard the statement “If you make your bed, you must lie in it.” It probably comes from the Biblical statement, “you reap what you sow.” The Bible speaks of terrible kings of Israel such as Ahab or Manasseh who disobeyed God by following idols and immorality. It says they “did evil in the sight of the Lord.” Even today they are known as evil kings. They reaped the evil that they sowed because they used what God gave them for themselves and not others.

In this lesson, you will discover how you can use generously God has given you to use for the Lord and how you can put generosity to use in your Christian life.

### **Sowing and Reaping**

#### **1. We reap what we sow. (2 Corinthians 9:6)**

*Remember this: a person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. (HCSB)*

When Paul was writing this second letter to the Corinthians, he was praising them for changing their ways. In First Corinthians, the people were selfish and doing sinful things. Paul corrected them because he knew if they continued, their actions would lead to bad results. Now, in this letter, he is seeing a church that has changed greatly. They now followed God ways and their hearts were turned back toward God. It seems Paul is reminding them that in the past they sowed sparingly, but now they had learned to sow generously.

The word for “generous” comes from the Greek word “*eulogia*” which is where we get our word eulogy. A eulogy is a speech or writing in praise of someone. Being generous is a “praise” to the person doing the giving and a “praise” to the person receiving the giving.

Fill in the blanks:

- If you sow sparingly, you will reap \_\_\_\_\_.

- If you sow \_\_\_\_\_, you will reap generously.

Every time you do something, it puts into motion a set of consequences. Years ago, when computers were much simpler, you had to write out what they call “line code”. You had to write a number and then a computer language command. A friend of mine was taking a computer class where they had to write a program using this line code. He would bring over a stack of computer greenbar paper and lay it out on the floor at our Baptist Student Union. It was so long he had to lay it down in the hallway. It often went 20 or more feet! One day I came in to see him walking up and down beside this greenbar paper. I asked him what was wrong. He told me his program didn’t run. He had written something wrong on just one line out of hundreds of lines of computer code. It took him over an hour to discover his mistake. There were consequences for his simple mistake, and it cost him much time to correct it.

In the same way, one little thing we do today may end up later keeping our life from working properly. It will cost us time to correct the wrong we did weeks, months or years earlier! How do we avoid making a mistake that will have bad consequences in the future? We learn to sow good things. Paul says in Philippians 4:8 *“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, dwell on these things.”* By following what the Bible says are good things to do, we can sow good things that will have good consequences. Being generous is one way to sow good things.

## The Cheerful Giver

### 2. Generosity is happy giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

*Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

When you get up in the morning, you begin to think about things; what to have for breakfast, what to wear or what about the test in Biology class. You make decisions about these things, but do you ever get up in the morning and think, “How can I use my gifts and talents to help other people?” People who give generously often look for opportunities to give to other people. They daily look for ways to be generous. They write thank you cards, leave a batch of fresh baked cookies at the front door of someone who has had a bad week and write notes of encouragement without signing their name. They do all this cheerfully and don’t expect any thanks or recognition for what they do. Do you desire to be this type of person or are you this type of a person already? 2 Corinthians 9:8 says, *“...so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.”* Excel means to “abound in” or “have abundance in.” It tells you to do many good works for God and for others.

**Action:** Think of a time where you have done something for someone without them asking you. Write down what you felt after doing this “good deed.”

When we do things for others, we feel good in our heart. We have given something without being asked. We have done it because we wanted to do

it, not because we had to do it. This is cheerful giving.

### **Blessings from Being Generous**

#### **3. God rewards generosity. (2 Corinthians 9:9-15)**

*<sup>11</sup>as you are enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving through us.*

God's desire is for us to use what he has given us generously. This means we are "to do good at every opportunity."

There is a lady in my church named Linda. Linda has always been a generous person. When I arrived at the church office, I could find Linda painting a railing, cleaning up the nursery, or doing one of many little things in the church. She would walk into my office and say, "Don't mind me, I'm just painting a railing," and she holds up a paint brush. I could never be as generous as Linda, but she sets an example for me and others to follow. She is one of the best liked people in the church. God has rewarded her generosity with a church full of people who are thankful to Linda for all she does. 2 Corinthians 9:12 says, <sup>12</sup>*"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God."*

**Action:** Take a moment and list ways you can be a generous person.

We live in a "give me" world. We want our fast food fast, we want our clothes to be the most "in" styles, we want our movies to end the way we want them and we want things to go our way. Our

world does not understand generosity. Maybe it doesn't understand generosity because we Christians aren't practicing our generosity enough. In the Olympics, one of the American swimmers who had won eight Olympic medals, five of them gold, gave up his place in the 4 X 100 Relay to another American who had been his rival in the other races. He explained that he had already won several gold medals and he wanted this other swimmer to have a Gold medal as well. The American team won the event and the rival swimmer got his first Gold medal. This American swimmer showed generosity. God asks all of us to show generosity. This week find several ways to use your generosity for others.

### **Conclusion**

Stewardship is using generously what God gave you. How generous have you been in the last week? Challenge yourself to be more generous in the next week.

\* all Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible



# Biblical Stewardship



# Bible Study Series

## *Using Generously What God Gives Me - Youth Teaching Plan -*

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV*

### Materials

- Bible
- pencils and paper
- deck of playing cards
- “The Giving Game” (Item #1)
- index cards
- poster board
- markers

### Preparation

- Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Make sure you have gone over how to play “The Giving Game” (Item #1).
- Make sure the chairs in the room are arranged in a semi-circle.

Display the session title and scripture reference on a chalkboard, poster board or some way in which the students will see it. Write this question on the board, “Define the word ‘Generous’”. Have some music from Contemporary Christian artists. Give the room an upbeat atmosphere. Greet students as they arrive.

### Introduction (5-7 minutes)

When everyone has arrived begin by **saying**, “Today we will look at how we can be generous. What do you think the word “generous” means? Give time for students to respond

**Say** to the students; “Today we will be looking at ‘Stewardship, Using Generously what God has given me.’”

### Options (15 minutes)

Divide youth into two groups. Explain to them they will be playing “The Giving Game” (Item #1). Share with them the rules as follows:

1. Each person begins with 15,000 generous points (item #1)
2. Going clockwise, have a person take a card off the top of the deck and do one of the following actions according to the card they get [Note: Aces are 1000 points. All number cards are in

thousands and face cards are 15,000 points]

♥: Receive Card – you receive Generous points (example: K♥ = 15,000 Generous points)

♦: Extra Card – take another card and add points of both and follow the actions according to suit (Choose, Take or Receive Card )

♠: Take Card – Must take the number of Generous points from another person (example: 10♠ take 10,000 points away)

♣: Choose Card – You can choose to give away Generous points or take Generous points (8♣ means give away the card or take 8,000 points from someone else).

3. Each person keeps or gives away the cards they have.
4. The goal of the game is for you to have the FEWEST Generous points at the end of the game by attempting to give them away.
5. Go around the group several times. Let the youth really get into the game and observe how each youth reacts to the game. When you stop the game, ask the following questions:
  - What did you like about the Giving Game?
  - What did you dislike about the Giving Game?
  - How did you feel when you received Generous points?

- How did you feel when you gave away Generous points?
- What frustrated you most during the Giving Game?
- How was a person supposed to win the Giving Game?

**Say**, “Everyone is given gifts and talents by God. The Bible says that we are to be cheerful givers.” Invite the youth to turn in their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

### Lesson (25 minutes)

Have a youth read the passage in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. **Ask**: “How does this passage relate to ‘The Giving Game’ we just played?” Allow time for students to share their insights.

**Say**, “Stewardship is also using generously what God has given you. As we read this passage, was there anything Paul says in here that caught your attention?” Let youth respond. **Say**: “We can see three things in this passage you can learn about using generosity as a part of your Christian Stewardship.”

- We reap what we sow. 2 Corinthians 9:6
- Generosity is happy giving. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
- God rewards generosity. 2 Corinthians 9:9-15

### 1. We reap what we sow. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

**Ask**: “Have you ever done something or said something that caused you hurt or problems later on?” Explain that what we do affects what kind of person we are or will become. It was Billy

Graham who once said, "If we sow to the wind, we will reap the whirlwind." **Ask:** "What does that mean to you?" Read the following passage out of 2 Corinthians 9:6. *"...and the person who sows generously will also reap generously."*

**Ask:** "What does it mean to 'reap generously'?" Wait for responses, then **say**, "It does not matter whether we sow good or bad things, we will reap the results of what we sow. God's desire is we sow good things so we can reap generously from them."

## 2. Generosity is happy giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

**Explain** that the word for "generous" comes from the Greek word "eulogia" which is where we get our word eulogy. A eulogy is a speech or writing in praise of someone. Being generous is "praise" to the person doing the giving and "praise" to the person receiving the giving. God blesses those who give happily good things to others.

Get the youth into two or more groups. Give each group a piece of poster board and markers. Ask them to list ways they can become generous. After 5 minutes, get them together and share their responses with each other.

## 3. God rewards generosity. (2 Corinthians 9:9-15)

**Say**, "God rewards generosity, but

usual not in material ways." [Note: William Barclay said of this passage, "...the rewards that the New Testament envisages are never material. It promises not the wealth of things, but the wealth of the heart and of the spirit." (Barclay (1975) The Letters to the Corinthians, pg. 234)]. Read the Barclay quote to the youth, then **ask**, "What would you say are 'wealth of the heart and spirit'?" Wait for responses. Barclay goes on to explain these as; rich in love, rich in friends, rich in help, and rich toward God. (Ibid, pg 234-35)

## Conclusion (10 minutes)

**Ask** the following questions:

- Does God ask us to be generous?
- If we "sow" generously, will God reward us?
- What can you do to be a more generous person?

**Explain:** A part of stewardship is using generously what we have. Even a teenager can use what they have generously. Simple things like picking up trash around the church, doing work projects like World Changers and helping parents at home with things are some ways youth can practice their generosity. Ask youth to take time this coming week to pray each day for God to show them how to be more generous.

Close in prayer. Ask God to reveal new ways youth can be generous.

\* all Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible

# THE GIVING GAME

Use with “Stewardship: Using Generously What God Gives Me.” Take time at home during the week to play this game before you use it during the lesson time.

1. Each person begins with 15,000 generous points (item #1).
2. Going clockwise, have a person take a card off the top of the deck and do one of the following actions according to the card they get. [Note: Aces are 1000 points. All number cards are in thousands and face cards are 15,000 points]



: Receive Card – You receive Generous points  
(example: K♥ = 15,000 Generous points)



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